IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please add Figure 2, as attached hereto.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-21 are currently pending in the application. All claims stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,817,263 (Taylor) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,776,944, to Kelman et al (Kelman).

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-21 is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Lee for the courtesies extended him at the interview on May 10, 2007.

During the interview, the amendments to the specification and claims, as made herein, were discussed.

It was pointed out that Taylor does not teach the use of a groove or tongue cooperating between a corresponding molded piece and connecting part. It was also explained that Kelman is not concerned with any type of a filtering media. The cited prior art does not teach or make obvious the use of a groove or tongue at an interface region between a molded piece and connecting part in a filter environment wherein by reason of inclusion of the groove/tongue, gas flowing in a straight line at the interface is precluded from passing through the filter without being directed into the filtering mixture.

The Examiner tentatively agreed that method claim 1 and apparatus claim 2, as herein amended, patentably distinguish over the art. The remaining claims depend from either 1 or 2 and recite further significant limitations to further distinguish over the applied art.

Applicant has included herewith a new Figure 2 which shows the alternative construction of the groove on the claimed connecting part. No new matter has been introduced since this structure has been consistently claimed since the initial filing.

Entry of the amendment, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-21 and allowance of the case are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
John S. Mortimer, Reg. No. 30,407

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ,
CLARK & MORTIMER
500 W. Madison St., Suite 3800
Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 876-1800

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